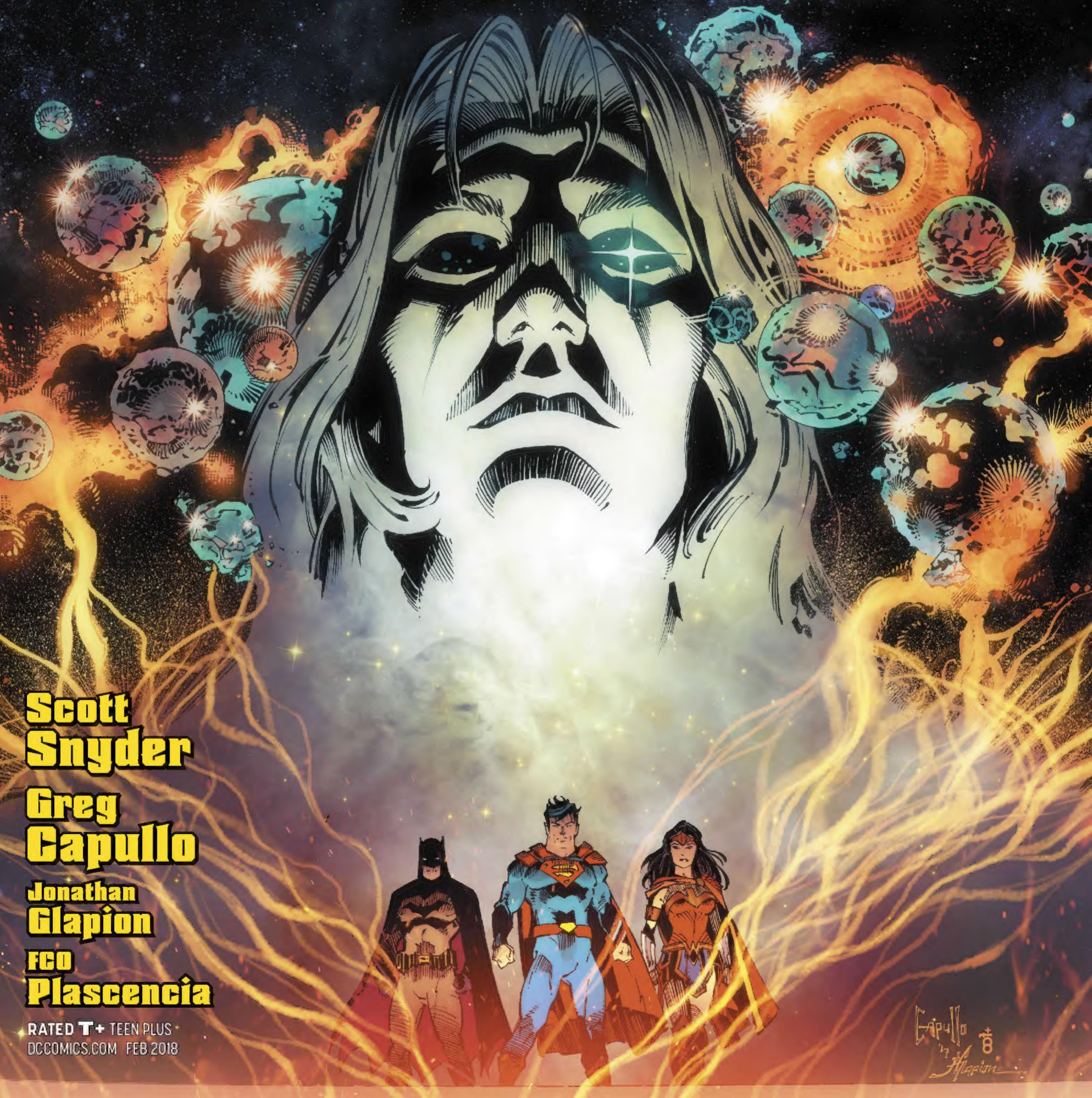




# DARK NIGHTS

4

# DEATH



**Scott  
Snyder**

**Greg  
Capullo**

**Jonathan  
Glapion**

**FCO  
Plascencia**

RATED T+ TEEN PLUS  
DCCOMICS.COM FEB 2018

Capullo  
8  
Glapion



DARK NIGHTS

4

THE END



**Scott  
Snyder**

**Greg  
Capullo**

**Jonathan  
Glapion**

**FCI  
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JIM LEE  
01/18/18

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# DARK NIGHTS

4



**Scott  
Snyder**  
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# DARK NIGHTS

4



**Scott  
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**ECD**

**Plascencia**

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Once upon a time, there was a library full of stories that would never be told.

And so after battling the Dark Knights, and barely escaping with their lives, our heroes continue their search for the universe's last bits of Nth Metal, the only material that might be used to repel the World-Ender, Barbatos, and his evil paladins.

While the ones called Wonder Woman, Doctor Fate and Kendra Saunders make their way to the Rock of Eternity in search of the fabled Mace of Earter Hall, the Hawkman...

...the ocean king, Aquaman, and the mercenary Deathstroke venture to the ancient and forbidden burial grounds of Atlantis, where a trove of Nth Metal is said to be hidden.

Meanwhile, the galactic guardian Green Lantern, the cosmic scientist Mr. Terrific, and Plastic...egg... seek Nth Metal on the hidden planet of Thanagar Prime...

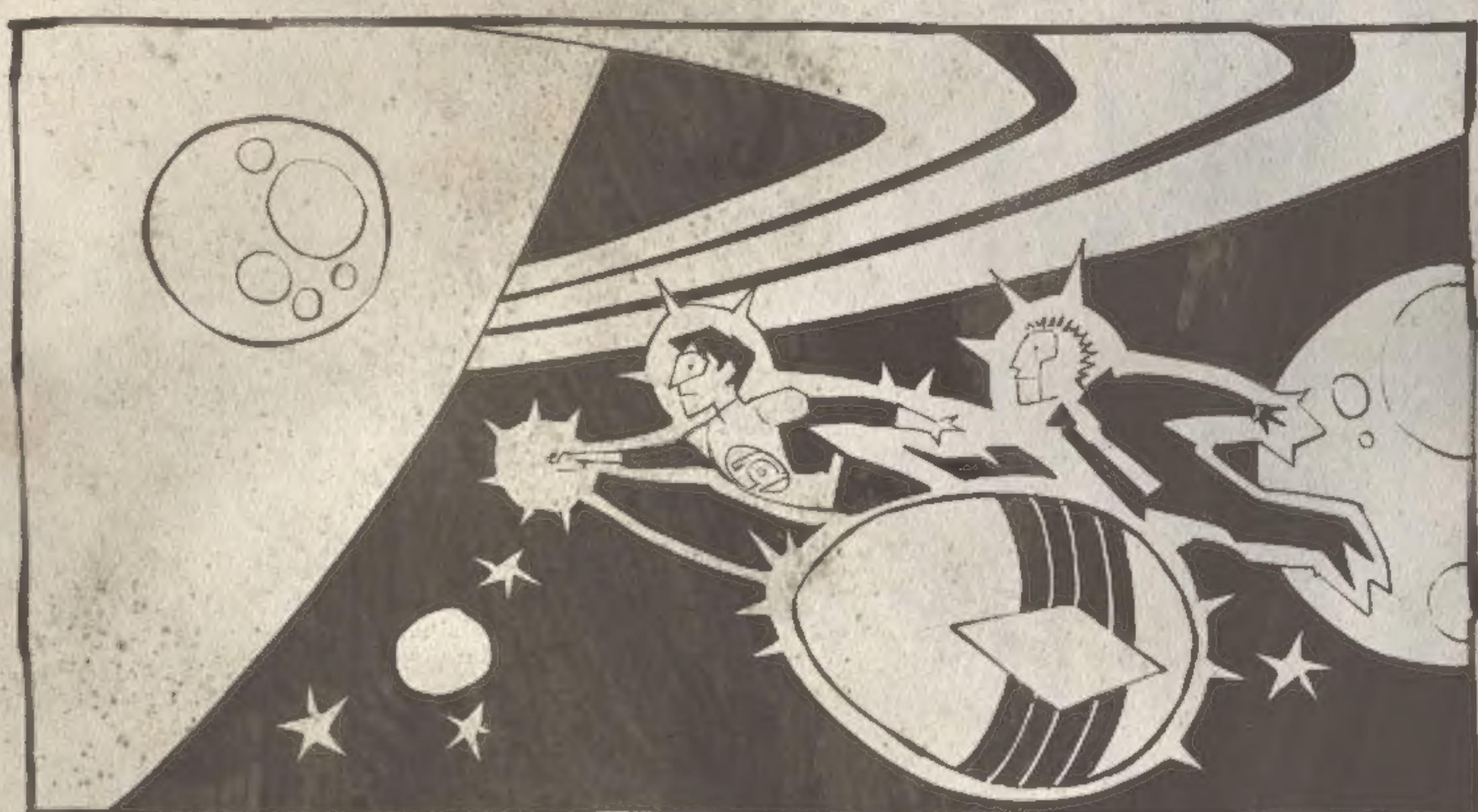
...as the speedmaster Flash and the mysterious and powerful Eyborg search the multiverse for help.

They are hopeful, these heroes, and formidable, but there is something dark they do not know.

**Impossible** stories destined only to happen in dream, or in nightmare.

Should any of these stories be spoken, let alone actually occur...

...the whole library will **burn**...



...and the world will likely burn with it.

## THE DARK MULTIVERSE!

COME ON,  
OLD FRIEND.  
IT'S TIME.

NO  
MORE...  
PLEASE...

EASY,  
BRUCE.  
WE'RE HERE  
TO SAVE  
YOU.

NO...YOU...  
YOU'RE NOT  
CLARK, YOU'RE  
HIS--

HIS NIGHTMARES?  
LIKE WHAT IF HE FINALLY  
KILLED YOU AND TOOK YOUR  
MANTLE AND IT JUST  
FELT...SO GOOD?

THE GOOD NEWS IS,  
YOU'RE NO LONGER NEEDED  
HERE. YOU LURED SUPERMAN,  
SO HE COULD BECOME THE  
GREAT BATTERY. NOW  
YOUR WORLD IS SINKING  
TOWARD US.

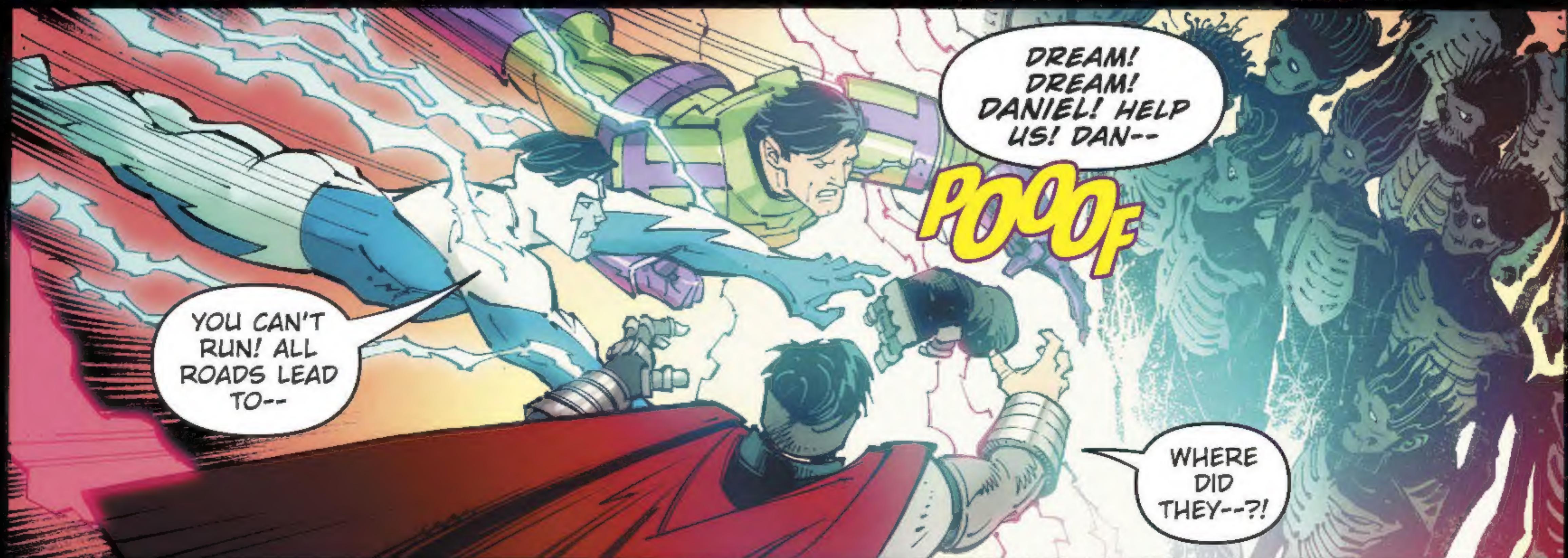
SOON IT'LL BE  
LOW ENOUGH THAT WE  
CAN TRAVEL THROUGH  
AND CLAIM IT.

WE CAN  
NOW TAKE YOU  
TO DEEPER  
CORNERS OF  
THIS REALM,  
FAR FROM  
HERE...

...AND FROM  
YOUR CLARK.

NOW COME  
ALONG, PA WAYNE,  
IT'S TIME TO GO  
GENTLY INTO THAT  
GOOD KNIGHT.

LIKE  
HELL IT  
IS!



**THE ROCK OF ETERNITY,  
COSMIC CENTER OF  
THE MULTIVERSE.**

FATE! WHAT  
MONSTERS ARE  
THESE?

YOU SHALL  
NOT PASS!

THE ROCK IS  
PROTECTED!

PUSHING NUNS  
DOWN STAIRS,  
GYM SELFIES. WE  
GET IT! JUST  
TAKE THEM OUT  
ALREADY!

THEY'RE THE  
ANCIENT GUARDIANS OF  
THIS PLACE, WONDER WOMAN!  
THE PERSONIFICATIONS OF THE  
**SEVEN SINS**. WRATH,  
GLUTTONY, SLOTH, AVAR--

WHY  
ARE THEY  
ATTACKING  
US?!

I DO NOT  
KNOW...THEY SHOULD  
BE WELCOMING US,  
GIVEN OUR MISSION.  
SOMETHING IS NOT  
RIGHT!

OH, SOMETHING'S WRONG  
WITH THE MISSION? HUGE  
SURPRISE! LET ME ASK THIS ONE  
WHAT THIS ISSUE IS.

ENOUGH,  
KENDRA!

BLAM  
BLAM

YOU NEVER SUPPORTED THE LEAGUE'S PLAN TO COLLECT THE LAST BITS OF NTH METAL, SO WHY ARE YOU HERE?!

I SENSE A DARK, UNKNOWN PRESENCE HERE.

YOU WILL LEAVE! THE...

I WARNED YOU THIS WAS A MISTAKE, BUT YOU DIDN'T LISTEN!

BY THE GODS, KENDRA, THE ONLY TRUE MISTAKE WE CAN MAKE IS NOT TRUSTING EACH OTHER!

YOU NEED TO OPEN...

THUNK

...UP!

...ROCK IS... SACRED...

I COULD USE THE LASSO. BUT WE ARE YOUR FRIENDS. WHY ARE YOU SO SURE WE'LL FAIL?

LOOK... THIS PLACE.

CARTER LEFT FROM HERE WHEN HE VENTURED INTO THE DARK. THE NTH METAL HERE, IT'S PROBABLY HIS MACE.

YOUR BLACKHAWKS SOUGHT TO DESTROY ALL NTH METAL YET YOU NEVER CAME FOR HIS MACE?

I...WAS AFRAID. CARTER REFUSED TO BELIEVE THE DARK WAS EVIL.

ME...I KNEW. IT'S AS IF...BARBATOS IS IN MY BONES. TELLING ME...ALL ROADS LEAD BACK TO DARKNESS.

I COULDN'T COME HERE BECAUSE IF I WAS RIGHT...

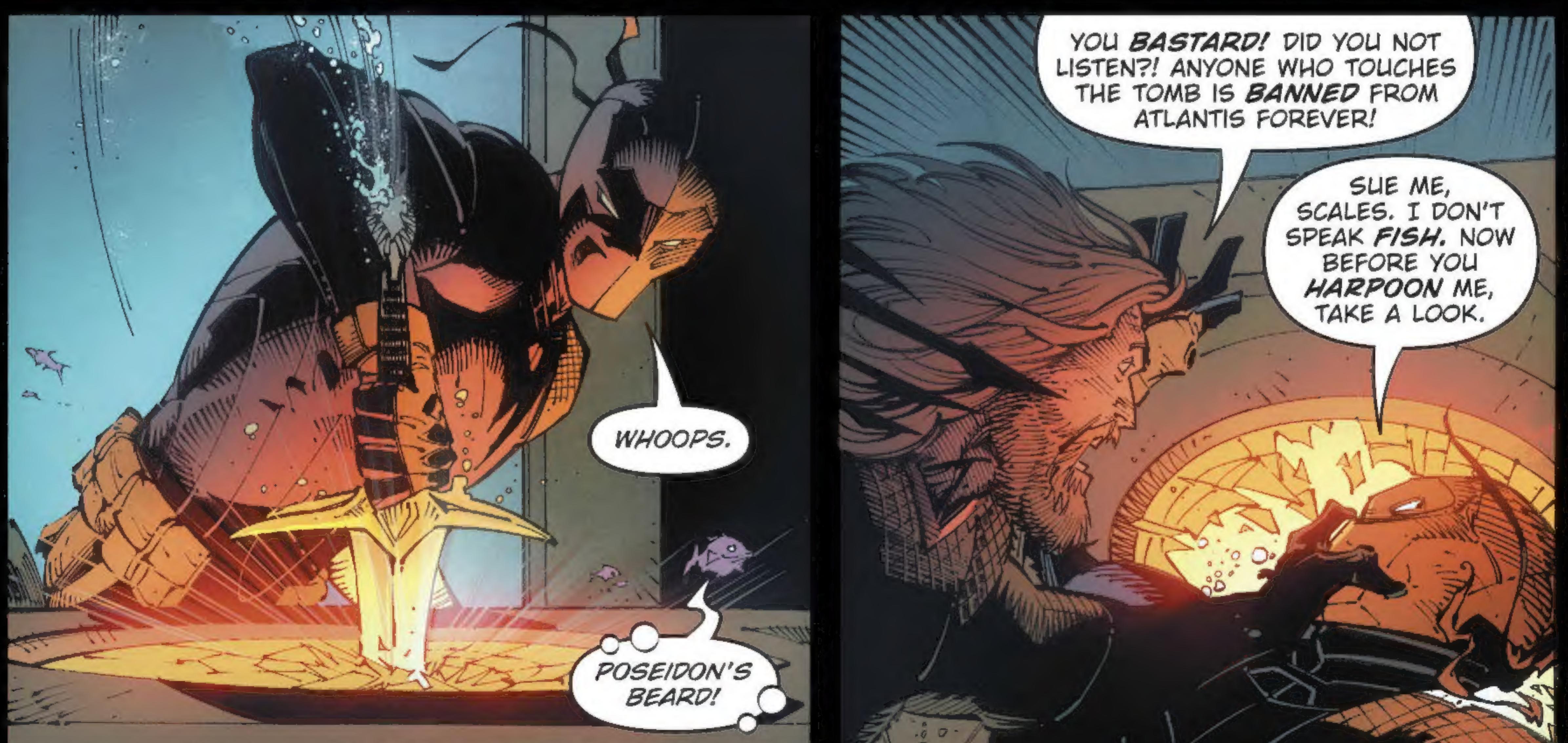
WHATEVER TRUTH IS HERE, KENDRA, WE'LL FACE IT TOGETHER. I PROMISE.

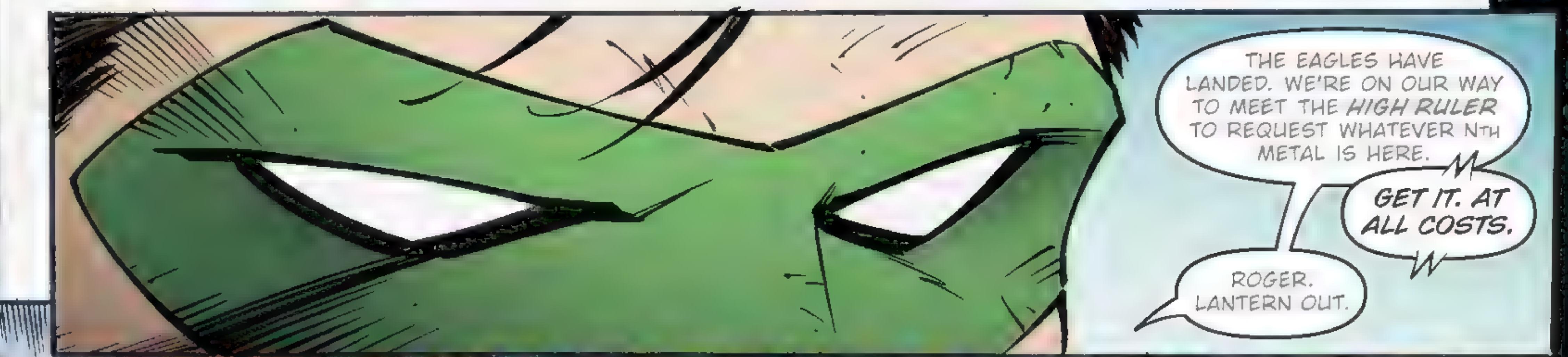
WONDER WOMAN, WE'VE DISCOVERED SOMETHING.

AQUAMAN? YOU FOUND THE NTH METAL?

NO. WE FOUND...

# OUTSKIRTS OF ATLANTIS.





WELCOME, FRIENDS,  
TO THE CENTER OF THE  
THANAGARIAN EMPIRE! MY  
NAME IS ONIMAR SYNN,  
AND I AM RULER  
HERE.

LORD SYNN, WE ARE  
HERE ON A VITAL MISSION.  
EARTH, HAS BEEN ATTACKED BY  
THE DARK MULTIVERSE. WE  
COME SEEKING--

NTH METAL,  
I KNOW. I  
CONSUMED WHAT  
WE HAD LEFT. IT'S IN  
MY CELLS. I WAS  
WHAT LURED  
YOU HERE.

FOR  
EONS, I WAS  
NEMESIS TO  
THE THANAGARIAN  
EMPIRE, BUT NOW  
I HAVE TAKEN  
MY RIGHTFUL  
PLACE ON ITS THRONE...

...WITH THE  
HELP OF MY  
NEW ALLY,  
THE MOST  
POWERFUL  
TELEPATH  
IN THE  
UNIVERSE...

NOW?  
NOW??  
NOW.

HAHAHA!  
I'M BACK,  
LOSERS!

BUT  
I--

KILLED  
ME? I PSYCHED  
YOU OUT, SLICKER,  
AND REGREW MYSELF  
FROM A PIECE OF MY  
OWN EXPLODED  
TENTACLAW!\*

STARRO THE  
CONQUEROR!

AND GET THIS,  
I NO LONGER NEED MY  
PSYCHIC FACE-SPORES  
TO CONTROL YOUR PUNY  
MINDS! JUST MY WILL  
AND EYEBALL! I'M LIKE  
SUPER-STARRO!

\*SEE ISSUE...UM, SCOTT, GREG...  
WHEN DID THIS HAPPEN? --TAY

--SCOTT  
& GREG

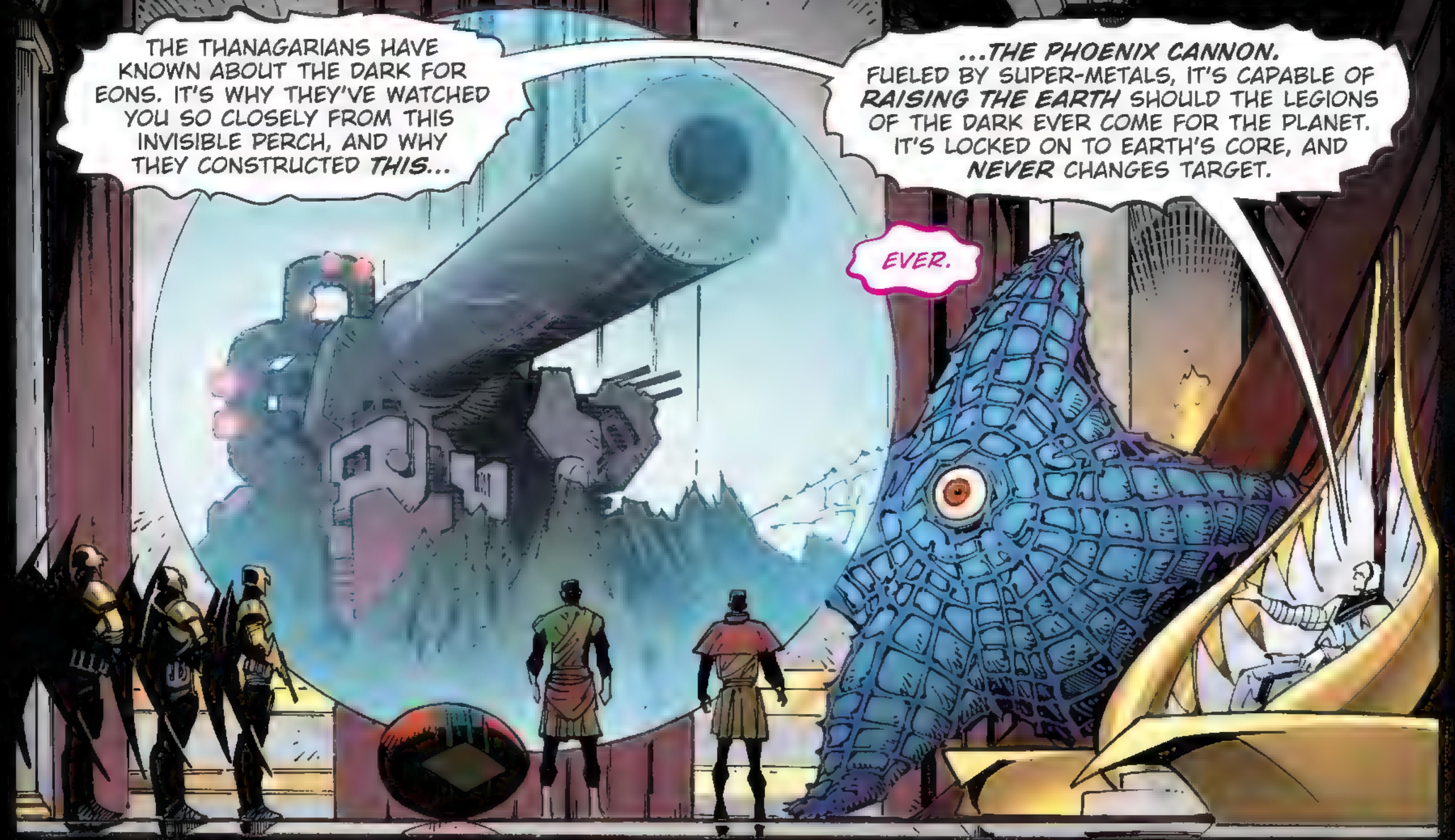
LORD SYNN, IGNORE  
THIS PSYCHOPATH AND  
LISTEN TO US! IF BARBATOS  
SINKS THE EARTH, EVERY-  
THING WILL GO WITH IT,  
INCLUDING YOU!

HEH.  
SEE, THAT'S  
WHERE YOU'RE  
WRONG...

THE THANAGARIANS HAVE KNOWN ABOUT THE DARK FOR EONS. IT'S WHY THEY'VE WATCHED YOU SO CLOSELY FROM THIS INVISIBLE PERCH, AND WHY THEY CONSTRUCTED THIS...

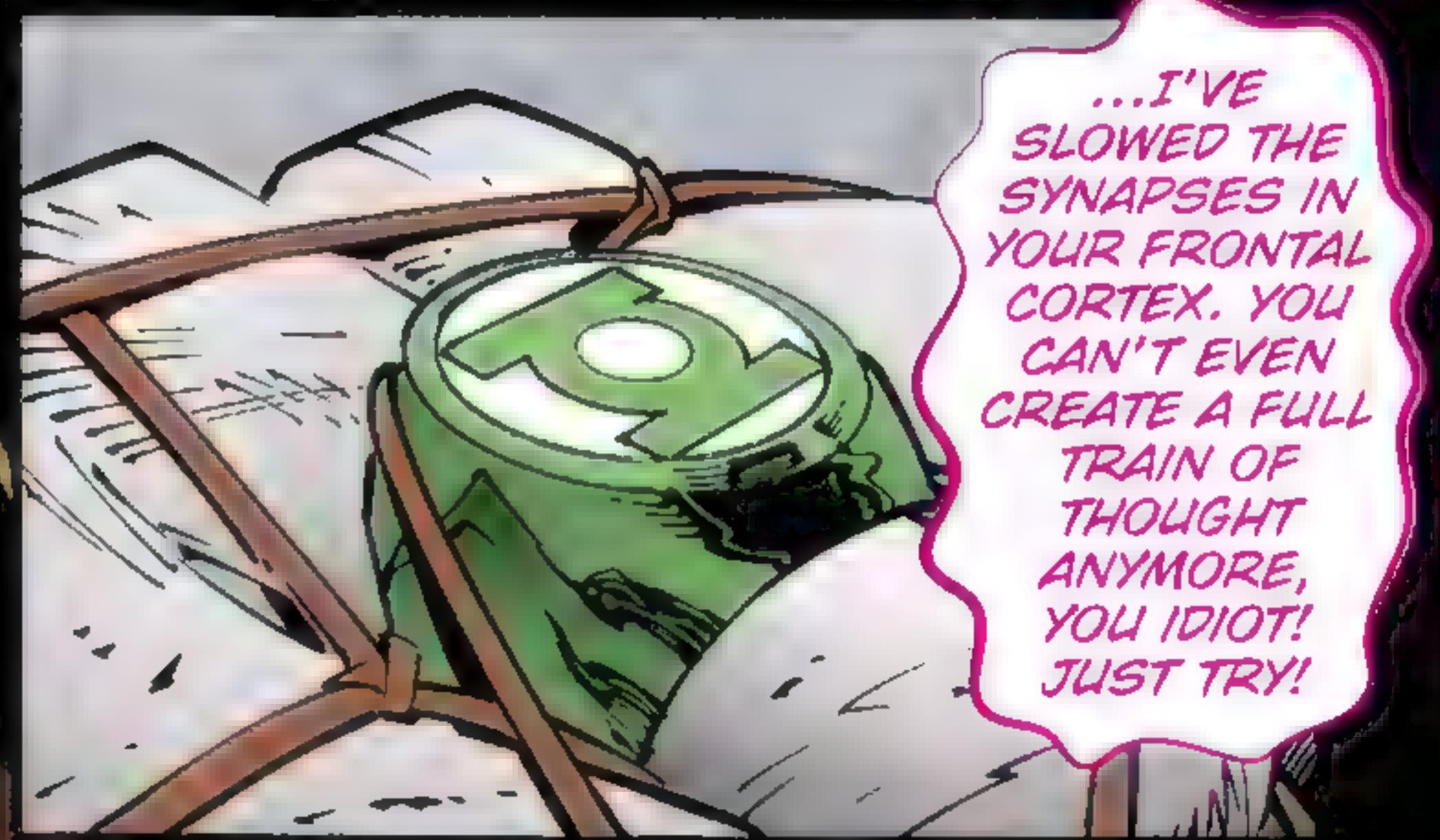
...THE PHOENIX CANNON. FUELED BY SUPER-METALS, IT'S CAPABLE OF RAISING THE EARTH SHOULD THE LEGIONS OF THE DARK EVER COME FOR THE PLANET. IT'S LOCKED ON TO EARTH'S CORE, AND NEVER CHANGES TARGET.

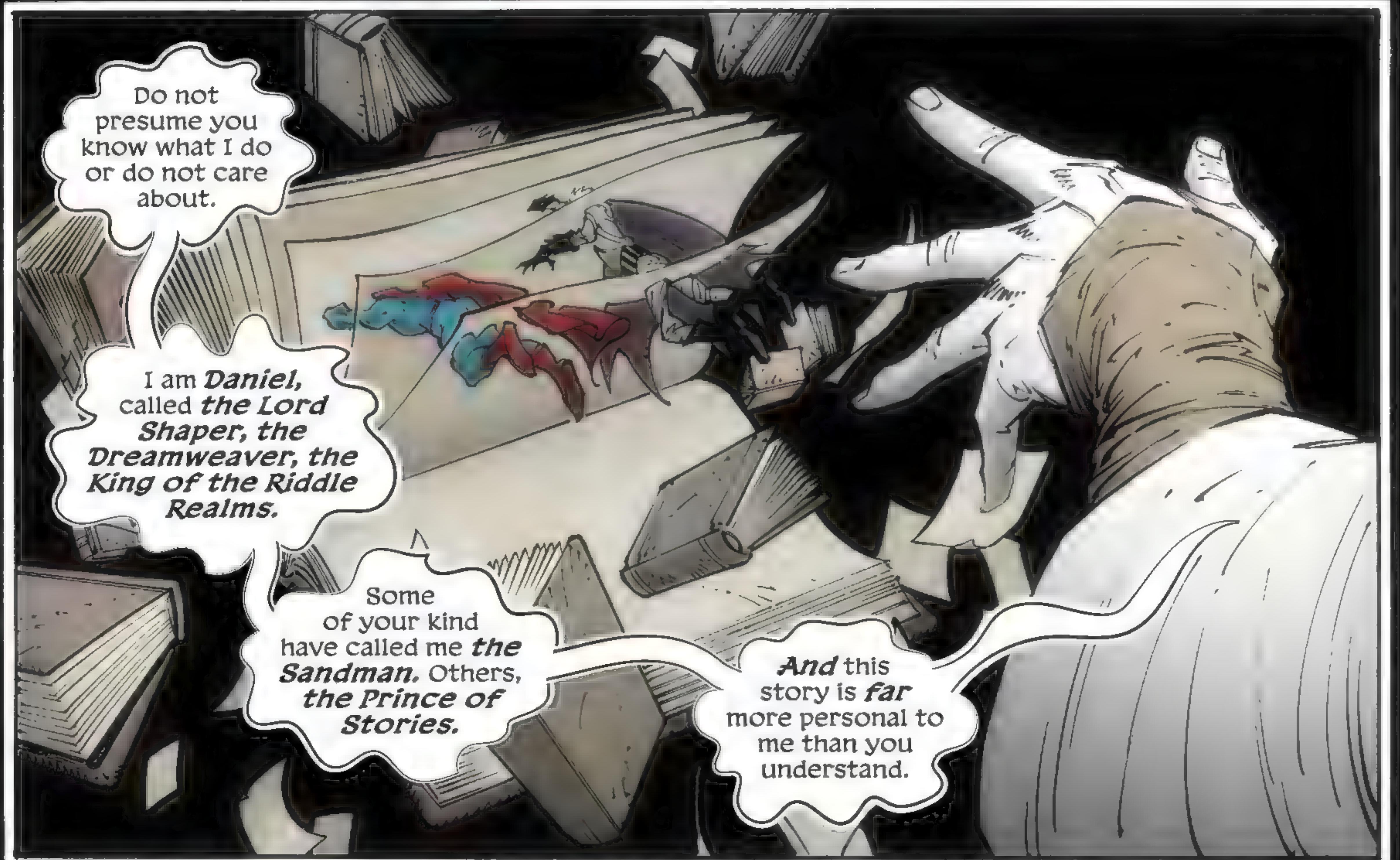
EVER.



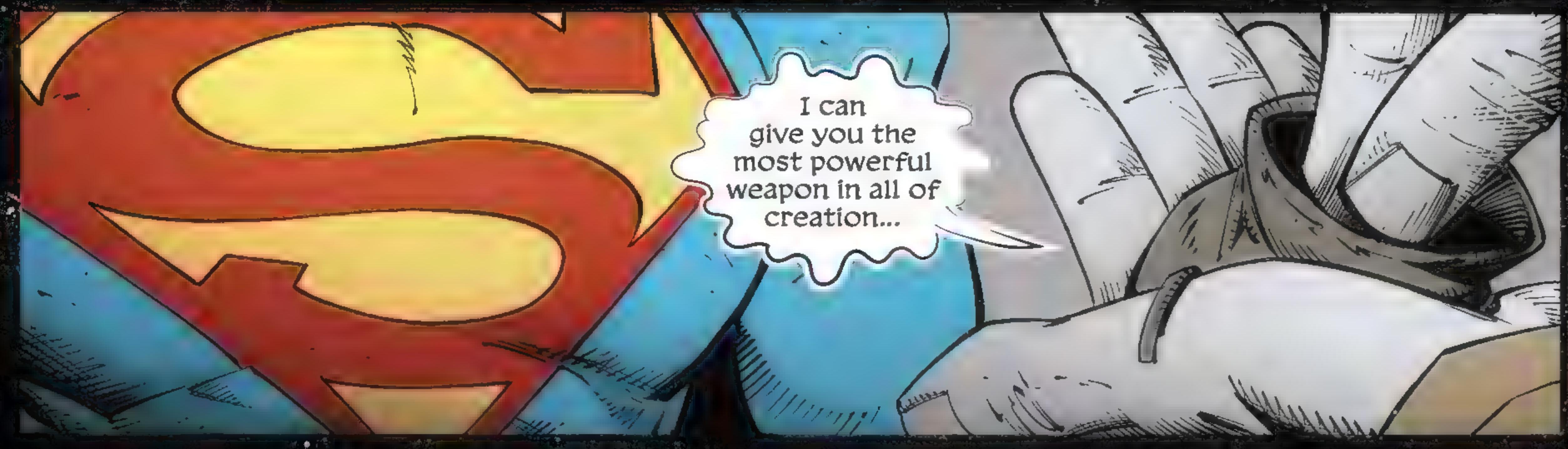
WHEN I FIRST TOOK THIS THRONE, I CONSIDERED USING THE CANNON TO DESTROY YOUR HOME ONCE AND FOR ALL. BUT NOW...NOW I'VE DECIDED ON A MUCH BIGGER PURPOSE FOR IT.

THANK YOU FOR BRINGING ME THE FINAL PIECE I NEEDED.









If there is any hope left, it lies at the World Forge, with the last pure, bright metal of possibility, before the fires go dark forever.

Barbatos desires to pull all worlds into the dark, and he is **winning**. Removing Superman from the dark towers stopped Earth from sinking, but it lies at the edge of the cosmic membrane.

SO THE NTH METAL WE NEED IS AT THE WORLD FORGE?

The metal of the Forge is **far** more powerful.

What you call Nth metal is but a strain, nearly pure--the **ninth** metal. The eighth, used by the Earth gods, is less so. And down from there. That is why it harms the dragon and its armies.

But they have a greater secret, a **cosmic being** to tip the balance further in their favor, and there is little time left.

WHAT IF BARBATOS HAS ALREADY TURNED THE FORGE DARK?

If it is fully dark... all is lost.

WE'VE COME THIS FAR. WE WON'T TURN BACK.

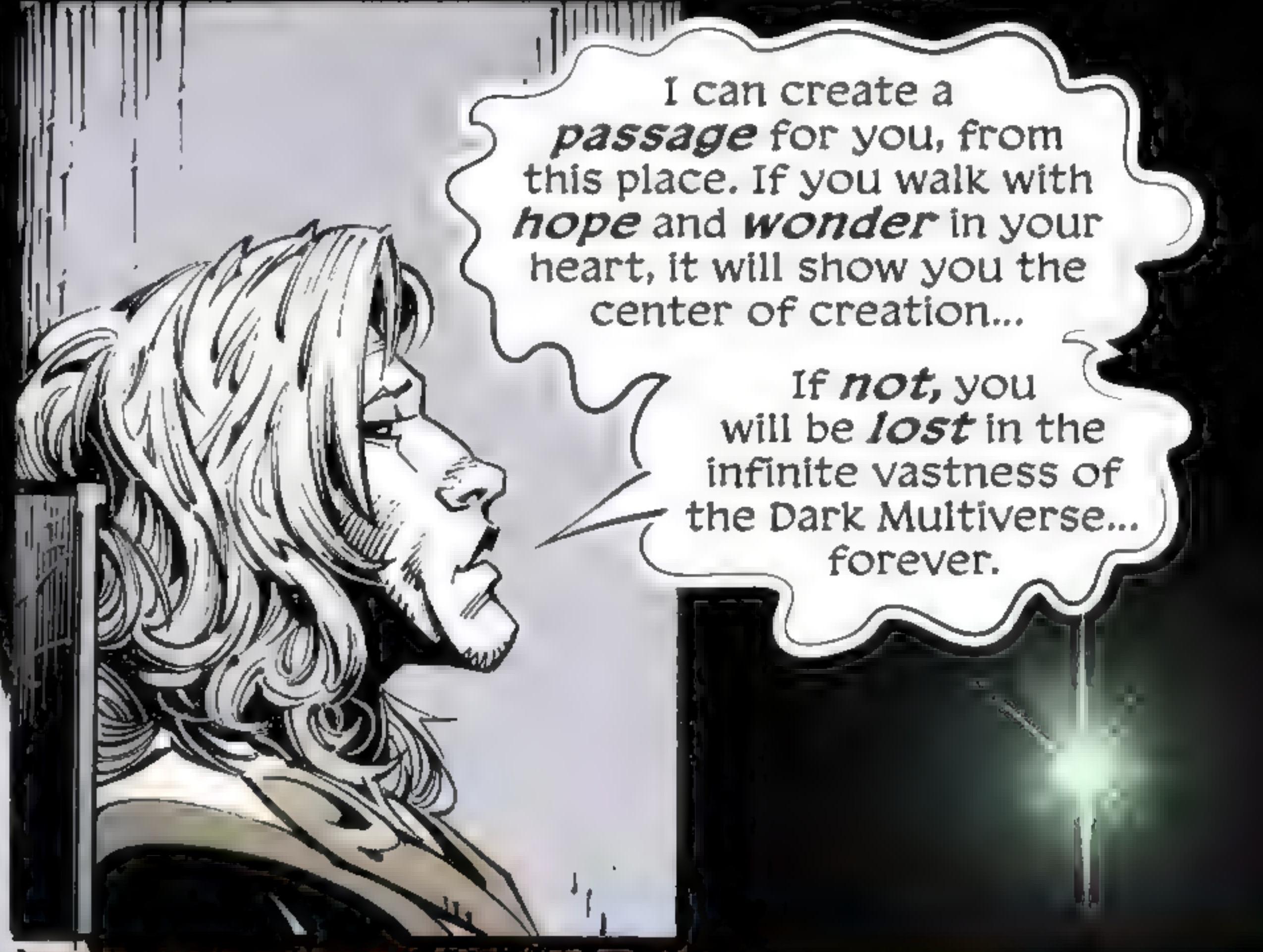
PLEASE, DREAM... DANIEL... CAN YOU HELP US?

Any further and Barbatos will be able to bring forth all the nightmares of the Dark Multiverse.



I can create a **passage** for you, from this place. If you walk with **hope** and **wonder** in your heart, it will show you the center of creation...

If **not**, you will be **lost** in the infinite vastness of the Dark Multiverse... forever.



THANK YOU, DREAM.  
COME ON, BRUCE, LET'S DO THIS.

CLARK... I... I CAN'T.



WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING  
ABOUT YOU CAN'T?

DREAM SAID  
WE HAVE TO HAVE  
HOPE...WONDER...  
BUT I--

STOP  
IT.

CLARK, BATMAN, FOR  
ME...HE WAS A DETECTIVE AT  
HEART. HE WAS ABOUT FINDING  
ANSWERS, EVEN WHEN THOSE  
ANSWERS WERE UGLY  
OR TERRIFYING.

THAT'S WHAT  
THAT LIGHT IN THE  
SKY MEANT. IT MEANT  
IT WAS TIME TO CUT  
THROUGH THE FEAR  
AND MYSTERY AND  
FIND ANSWERS.

BUT DOWN  
HERE...ALL I'VE SEEN  
ARE MY MISTAKES, MY  
FAILURES. AND FOR  
THE FIRST TIME...I  
DON'T WANT TO FIND  
ANYTHING ELSE.

THAT'S WHAT IT  
WANTS YOU TO BELIEVE,  
BRUCE. IT'S A LIE! YOU'VE  
BEEN HERE FOR WHAT  
FEELS LIKE DECADES, I  
KNOW, BELIEVE ME, BUT  
YOU CAN'T LET IT  
FOOL YOU!

YOU'RE  
BATMAN, DAMMIT.  
YOU GIVE OTHERS HOPE.  
THEY SEE YOU AND ARE  
FILLED WITH WONDER  
ABOUT WHAT THEY  
CAN ACHIEVE.

NOW, COME  
ON! WE NEED TO  
FIND OUT IF THE  
FORGE IS STILL  
BRIGHT!

...I...  
THERE HAS TO BE  
SOMETHING! ONE THING  
THAT FILLS YOU WITH  
WONDER!

ONE THING  
THAT CAN HELP  
US SAVE OUR  
HOME, BRUCE!

...HOME...

DAMIAN.

KEEP  
GOING.

MY...MY CHILDREN.  
I LOOK AT THEM AND  
I...FEEL SUCH WONDER.  
THEY ARE BETTER THAN  
I'LL EVER BE, AREN'T  
THEY?

MAYBE I'M A  
FAILURE, BUT...  
NOTHING I FIND DOWN  
HERE WILL CHANGE  
I FEEL ABOUT...  
MY FAMILY.

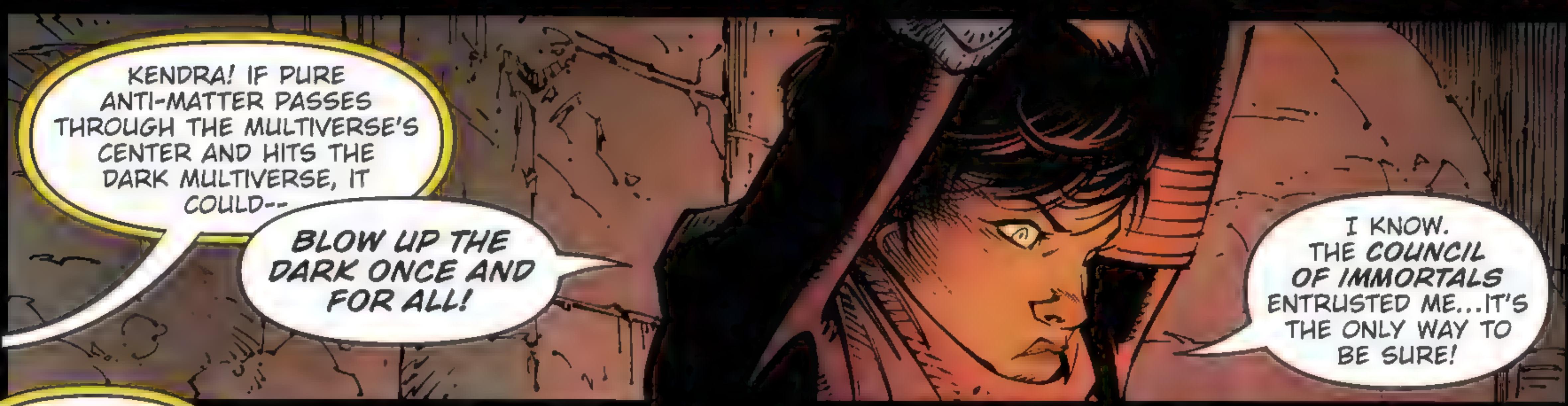
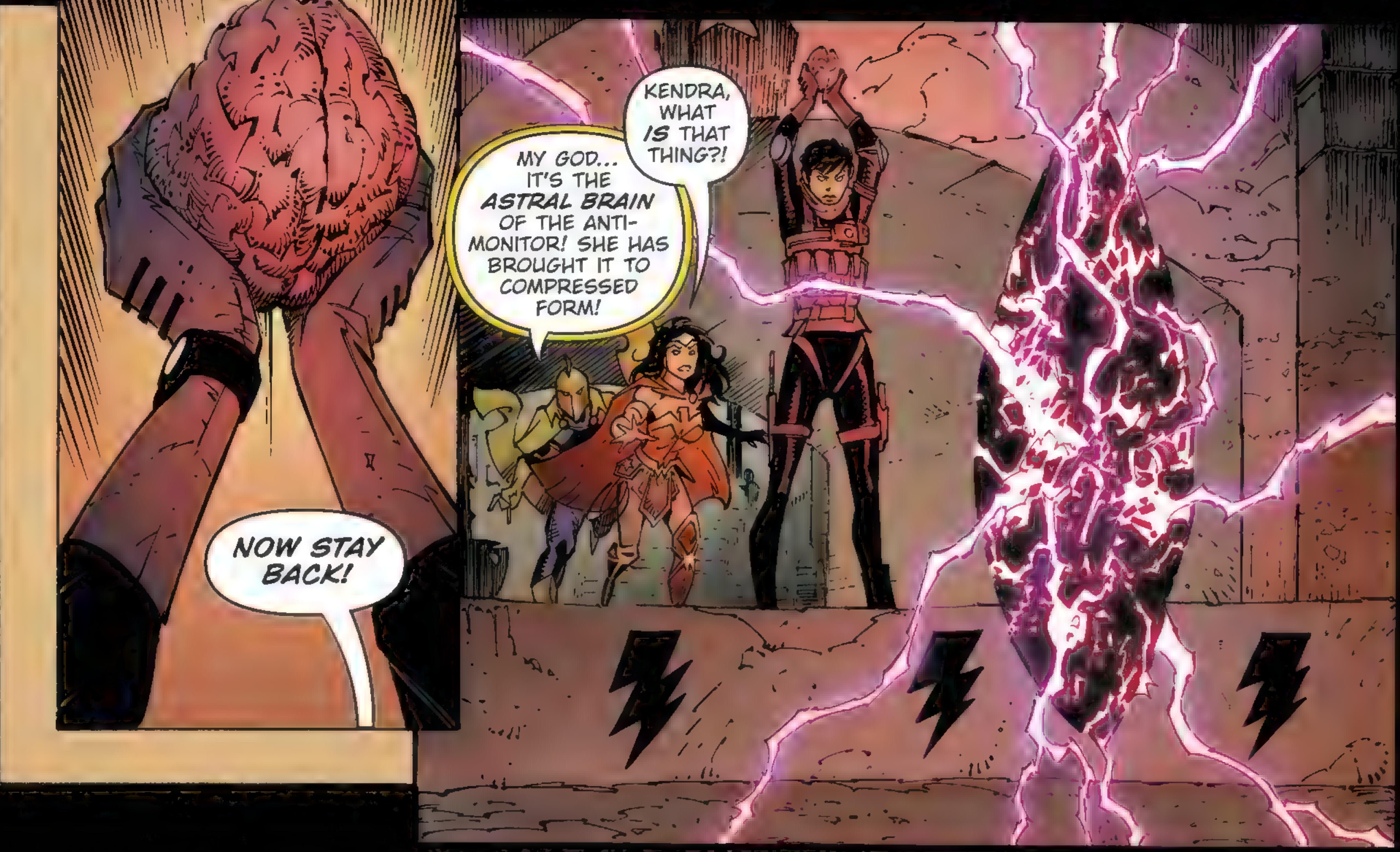
GOOD TO HAVE  
YOU BACK, OLD  
FRIEND.

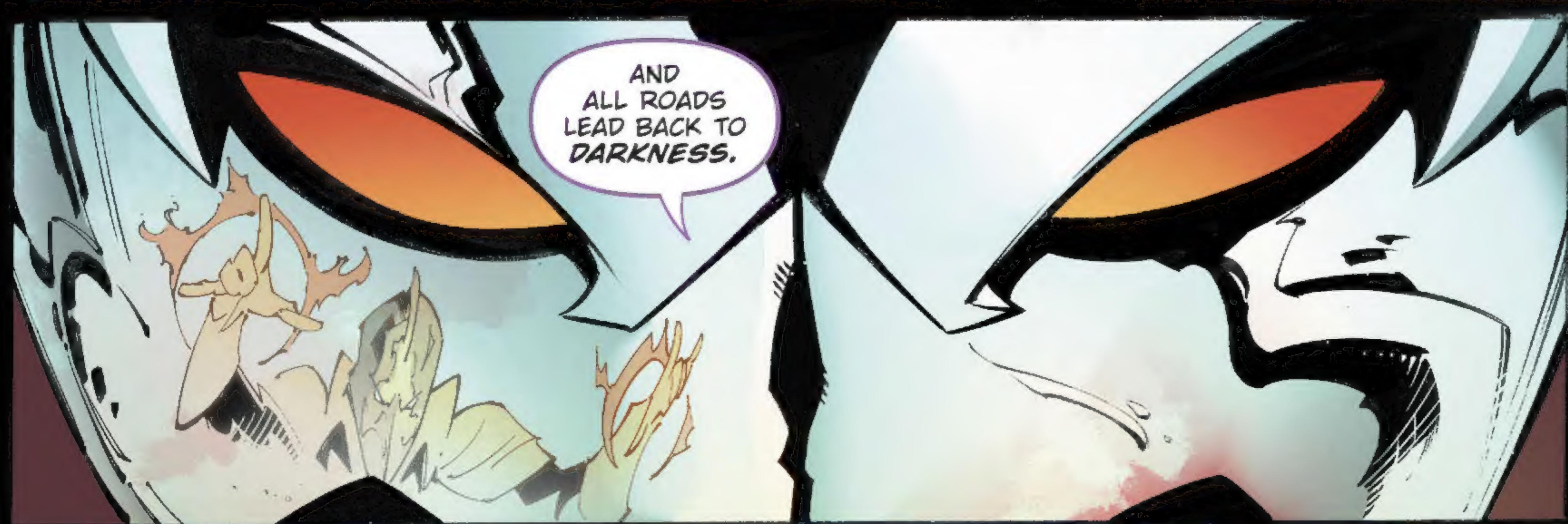
DON'T GET  
SAPPY ON ME,  
KENT. I'M BATMAN.  
LET'S DO THIS  
THING.

YES,  
SIR.

IS ANYONE  
OUT THERE?







THERE  
WILL BE NO  
SAVING ANYONE  
TODAY.

BLACK  
ADAM?!  
BUT WHY--

I AM ONE OF THE  
IMMORTALS, AS WAS  
KENDRA. I HAVE LIVED  
LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW  
THEIR PLAN STANDS NO  
CHANCE AGAINST FORCES  
OF THE DARK.

SO VANDAL  
SAVAGE AND I MADE  
OUR OWN DEAL WITH  
BARBATOS.

NOW GIVE  
ME THE BRAIN,  
AND I WILL MAKE  
THIS PAINLESS.  
ALMOST.

NEVER!

My lord, the book  
burns in your hands!  
So many books burn...

I know, Lucien,  
but I will read on  
as long as I can...

The heroes keep hope in their hearts, and through the whirling dark, they reach the Great Forge.

But as they near, they see...

NO.

## FORCE OF WORLDS.

They are *too late*.  
The Forge has gone forever...dark.

THIS...THIS CAN'T BE HOW IT ENDS.

CARTER...

CARTER HALL, IN HIS JOURNAL, HE SWORE. THE FORGE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A PLACE OF CREATION, OF BEGINNINGS.

Then came a booming voice from behind them.

I WAS WRONG, BRUCE WAYNE.



I AM CARTER HALL,  
DRAGON OF BARBATOS,  
KEEPER OF THE  
DARK FORGE.

AND  
THERE ARE  
ONLY ENDINGS  
HERE.

And with those words, this book, and all hope, burns to ash.

Next:  
**Night** of the Hawks!